

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 13, beginning on line 6 of the specification as follows:

Individual devices are known, for example a television having a TV tuner and picture tube in a housing, and which are connected to one another via a data line. Uncompressed video signals are transmitted through the data line (e.g., as FBAS signals), and are displayed on the picture tube. Device combinations are also known, for example a DVD player with a television set. With this combination, the compressed data stored on the digital video disk (DVD), which are coded, for example according to the MPEG-2 standard, are read and decoded and decompressed by an appropriate MPEG-2 decoder in the DVD player. The decompressed data are then transmitted over the connecting data lines to the television set which reproduces and displays these decompressed data, for example as an FBAS signal, in accordance with the video data received by the TV tuner. A problem with the prior art systems is that the data on the data network are not compressed and thus make inefficient use of the bandwidth of the data line, and further require the data sources to provide decompressed data to the data sinks.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 16, beginning on line 16 of the specification as follows:

Along with the audio data from the car radio 12, control data are also transmitted over the optical data line 20, which ensures the correct assignment of the audio data to the correct data sink (e.g., the subscriber 14 which may be an amplifier). In addition, an appropriate control signal ensures that the data sink 14 ~~to~~ conducts the incoming data, inasmuch as these are transmitted as AC-3 compressed data to the corresponding AC-3 bit stream decoder 32, which decompresses the data. If the audio data transmitted by the car radio 12 to the data sink 14 are not compressed, the bit stream decoder 32 will typically not need to be activated to decompress the audio data.

Applicants hereby amend the paragraph on page 18, beginning on line 23 and continuing on page 19 of the specification as follows:

The local network 10 therefore demonstrates how the data sources 12, 13 no longer each require a bit stream decoder, and how the bit stream decoders 32, 38 are assigned to the data sinks 14, 15 which are centrally responsible for playing back the audio or video data. The example of the amplifier 14 illustrates that it includes the AC-3 decoder 32 to decode the compressed audio data from the DVD player 13 and also from the car radio 12, and that these decoded audio data subsequently are reproduced by the loudspeakers 34, 36. Through this centralization and assignment of the bit stream decoders 32, ~~38~~ to the corresponding data sinks 14, 15, the number of decoders can be reduced. On the one hand, this noticeably reduces the costs of such a network 10 even with a small number of subscribers 12-15. With a large number of subscribers, especially with an increasing number of data sources 12, 13, the achievable cost advantage becomes continuously greater.